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In the Claims:

- 1.(previously presented)                      A method for treating an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate comprising: dispersing an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound into an airspace as a vapour in which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to provide a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 14 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.
- 2.(canceled)
- 3.(canceled)
- 4.(previously presented)                      The method according to claim 1, wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.
- 5.(previously presented)                      The method according to claim 4, wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.
- 6.(previously presented)                      The method according to claim 1 wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.
- 7.(previously presented)                      The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant is selected from:
  - a terpene hydrocarbon;
  - a citrus oil;
  - or a component thereof.
- 8.(previously presented)                      The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

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- 9.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant comprises  $\beta$ -pinene.
- 10.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.
- 11.(previously presented) A method for treating an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate comprising : dispersing an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound into an airspace as a vapour in which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to provide a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 28 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.
- 12.(canceled)
- 13.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.
- 14.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.
- 15.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.
- 16.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant is selected from:  
a terpene hydrocarbon;  
a citrus oil;  
or a component thereof.

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17.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

18.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises  $\beta$ -pinene.

19.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.